

# The Emperor's LETTER

To His own Subjects, and those of  
the Empire in ITALY.

Dated from Vienna, April 9th, 1689.

Licensed June 5th, 1689.

**W**E *Leopold*, by favour of the Divine  
Clemency, Emperor of the Romans Elect,  
ever August, and King of Germany, Hun-  
gary, Bohemia, Dalmatia, Croatia, Sclavo-  
nia, &c. Arch-Duke of Austria, Duke  
of Burgundy, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola, and Wirtemberg,  
Count of Tyrole, &c. To all and singular, Our well-be-  
loved faithful Vassals and Subjects, and to those of  
the Sacred Roman Empire in Italy, of what State, De-  
gree, Order, Condition, Dignity and Pre-eminence soever  
they be, our Imperial Grace, and all Happiness.

Beloved! We make known and certify to you, That

A

whereas

whereas the Crown of *France* has long since, not only several ways violated the Twenty Years Truce established, *Annus* 1684. in the General Diet of the Empire, between Us and the Empire on the one part, and the said Crown of *France* on the other part, and contrary to the express Tenour as well of that as of the Peace of *Westphalia* and *Nimeghen*, hath usurpt divers Places and Profits of the Empire, hath built Bridges upon the Bank of the *Rhine*, not belonging to the said Crown, hath erected Forts upon the Lands of the Empire, hath cut down the Woods, and many other ways, hath distressed the States and Subjects of the Sacred Roman Empire; but at length growing even impatient of our Patience, being moved either with Envy at our Successes, against the *Turks*, or with an insatiable desire of enlarging its Borders, not minding its Faith so often given, and but lately renewed, despising all Law Divine, Ecclesiastical, and of civilized Nations at that very time, when our own Armies, and these of several States of the Empire (relying on publick Compacts and the Sanctimony of the Royal Word) were for God's Glory besieging the Infidels in *Belgrade*, did treacherously, and without any prævious Declaration of War, fall upon Us and the Empire, while we did not in the least dream of it, with all its Power took *Philipsburg*, destitute of the Faith of Leagues, and a necessary Garrison, invaded the *Palatinate*, *Franconia*, *Salvia*, and other Territories on the *Rhine*, pouring in men into the Country and Arch-Bishoprick of *Cologne*, endeavoured to obtrude upon Us, and the Roman Empire Cardinal *Fürstenberg*, contrary to the lawful Election, rightly confirm'd by the Pope himself, of the most serene Prince, *Joseph Clement* of *Bavaria*, for Arch-Bishop and Elector of *Cologne*, either by force or Treachery, hath upon certain Terms, got into its hands *Mentz*, *Worms*, *Spire*, *Heilbrowne*, *Heidelberg*, *Frankendale*, and other Cities and strong Holds, subject, either mediately or immediately, to the sacred Roman Empire, and not sparing things sacred to Justice, hath destroy'd  
the

the supreme Tribunal of the Empire, which in the times of the fiercest former Wars remain'd untouch'd in the said City of *Spires*, carrying the Writings and Evidences belonging to the whole Empire into *France*, hath wickedly appropriated to its own use the Poor and Orphans Money, there deposited and kept; hath extorted vast Contributions every where; yea, whole Cities, Towns and Countries, notwithstanding they paid the Taxes laid upon them, after they had, contrary to Faith, given and confirmed by the hand of the most serene *Dauphin*, been plundered; it hath partly destroy'd by burning, partly by Mines; it hath with so great Fury blown them up from the very Foundations, that a stone is not left upon a stone; and not keeping its wicked hands from the very Temples, and the ancient Pallaces of Princes it hath levell'd them to the ground: in some places it hath violently driven the stronger sort of Our Subjects, after the manner of the *Barbarians*, into Slavery, or to bear Arms in *France*; others, after they were robb'd of their Corn, which was all that was left after so great exactions, it forced to Plow their own Fields, when they were sown; and it most severely forbid them upon pain of death ever for the future to exercise husbandry; finally, it hath every where, as far as the beastly inhumanity of its Souldiers could reach, and done all with Murder, Sword, Fire, Rapine, and other horrid instances of Rage, Cruelty, Avarice and Lust, scarce known among *Barbarians*, and exceeding the very cruelty and malice of *Tartars* and *Turks*; and it continues to undo, and moreover it persists to stir up the sworn Enemies of the *Holy Cross*, to the utter destruction of the Christian World, and to solicit them to join Arms with it by a League: We, with all the Electors, Princes and States, assembled in our Imperial City of *Ratisbona*, have taken into mature deliberation how to defend and vindicate the liberty of our dearest Country from present ruine, and We being with their unanimous consent and suffrages address'd by them, that not only by Decreeing and Publishing an universal and most just War all over the Ro-

man Empire, We would according to our Imperial trust,  
 together with Them, endeavour to repel such cruel  
 injuries, and with all our might assert the Safety and Li-  
 berty of the Empire; but also that we would esteem those  
 as the common Enemies of the whole Empire, who shall  
 assist the foresaid Crown, with Men, Horse, Arms, Pro-  
 visions, Money, or by any other means whatever; and  
 that We would earnestly forbid, especially our own and  
 the *Roman* Empire's Subjects in *Italy*; any way to assist  
 the fore mentioned Crown, or either directly or indi-  
 rectly to promote its execrable undertakings, most se-  
 verely and upon pain of loss of their Fees and other  
 Advantages held of Us, and the Sacred *Roman* Empire.  
 Since therefore by Our Imperial Authority, We have  
 approved the fore-mentioned unanimous Sentence, of  
 the Electors, Princes and States of the Empire as agree-  
 able to the Divine and Natural Law, and to every ones  
 obligation, and relying on the assistance of the Divine  
 Justice, have taken up Arms for the necessary defence of the  
 Empire; so We hope none of you are so destitute of Pi-  
 ety, nor will be so forgetful of your Allegiance and Du-  
 ty, as that you will participate of so detestable cruelty  
 and treachery, and of those crimes which have proceeded,  
 and will proceed from thence, nor that you will lend  
 any assistance or aid to the accursed attempts of the En-  
 mies, only tending to the ruine and subversion of Our  
 Country. Hence it is, well-beloved! that out of the  
 plenitude of Our Imperial Power, We kindly and seri-  
 ously admonish you, and upon Our own, and the Sacred  
*Roman* Empire's most grievous displeasure, and upon pain  
 of losing all Fees, Priviledges, Rights and Immunities  
 whatever, granted to you by Us or the *Roman* Empire;  
 do strictly charge you, That none of you, of whatever  
 State, Degree, Condition, Dignity and Pre-eminence he  
 be, who is any way related to the *Roman* Empire, and  
 enjoys the Honours and Prerogatives of the same, after  
 the time that this Our Pleasure, either by Our original  
 Letters, or by Copies of them (which We will have to

be of equal Authority) or otherwise shall be known; shall be assisting to the foresaid Crown of *France*, or to its Colleagues and Adherents, nor shall send any assistance, but shall recall them, if sent; if any of you serve it or its Adherents, he must quit his stipend, nor must he for the future serve under them; nor by Men, Money, Provisions, Corn, Gunpowder, Quarters, Passages, Advice, nor any other way whatever shall be aiding or assisting to their unjust designs, nor shall enter into any unlawful Treaties with them to the prejudice of the Empire; much less shall they voluntarily, or at the instigation of the *French*, those disturbers of *Europe*, make War either upon Our Hereditary Kingdoms and Provinces, or upon Our Liege People and Members of the Empire, or upon Our Vassals, or those in League with us, in or without the Lands of the Empire upon any pretext whatever; nor shall he contrive any Hostilities against Us or them, nor give suspicion of such contrivances, nor shall he give his Assistance or Counsel to any others towards it. Well-Beloved! We therefore kindly Exhort you, that if perchance any of your Children, Kindred, Clients, Vassals and Subjects, should serve in the Wars, or otherwise assist the Crown of *France*, its Favourers and Adherents, or any who are Enemies to Us, and the Empire, its Members and Allies, you would not only recall them under the commination of most grievous Punishments, respectively of loss of Goods, Feudal and Allodial, Benefits, Privileges, Immunities, Honour and Life, and that forthwith you would severely proceed against the refractory; but that you would moreover cheerfully employ your Power and Pains in a just cause, and for the Defence of the Empire; since by so doing, Well-Beloved! you will deserve well of Us and the Sacred *Roman* Empire, and of the whole Christian Common-wealth. But if any, contrary to expectation and to this express Sanction of Ours and of the whole *Roman* Empire, shall be found to maintain the unjust pretensions of *France*, or to assist it or its Adherents, or their Aiders or Abettors, or any of Our Enemies,

or the Enemies of those in League with Us, or to act  
 or endeavour Hostilities against any one or all the Ele-  
 ctors, Princes and States of the Sacred *Roman* Empire, or  
 other Vassals, or in League with them, know that ye  
 shall irremissibly be deprived of all the Benefits, Rights  
 and Priviledges which he enjoys from Us and the Sacred  
*Roman* Empire, and that he shall without delay be pro-  
 ceeded against by Our Imperial Fiscal. Which, that it  
 may be the more manifest to all, and that none may  
 pretend ignorance, We kindly require you, Well-Beloved!  
 to take care that this Our Declaration be published and  
 affixed in your Territories, and Districts respectively;  
 in doing whereof, Well-Beloved! you will act as be-  
 comes You and the Cause, and agreeable to Our Pleasure  
 and Your own Duty. Upon Credit of this Our Letters  
 Signed with Our own Hand, and Sealed with Our Imperial  
 Seal, Given at Our City of Vienna, April 9, 1689. Of  
 Our Empire, the Thirty First; of Our Reign over Hungary,  
 the Thirty Fourth; and over Bohemia, the Thirty Third  
 Year;

LEOPOLDUS.

*V. Leopoldus Guilielmus*  
*Comes in Reginas*

*Ad Mandatum Sacre Cesaree*  
*Majestatis proprium*

C. F. Cölnbrück.



# A LETTER

FROM THE

Electors, Princes, and States, Coun-  
cellors, and Embassadors Assembled  
in the *Diet at Ratisbonne*

TO THE

Most Serene and Potent

## JOHN III.

### King of Poland, &c.

Written *May the 4<sup>th</sup>.* and Published the *13<sup>th</sup>.*  
of the same Month.

*Most Serene and Most Potent KING, Most Gracious Lord !*

**T**HE constant reports of some by-past Years have undoubtedly informed your Majesty, how, under the specious, but vain and rapacious pretence of dependences, after the Peace of *Nimeghen*, the *Roman Empire*, urged by the *French* with Invasions, Seizings, and Devastation of Cities and Countries, and infinite Injuries, was

was at length *Anno 1684.* compell'd to yield to the no less hard, than unjust Terms of a Truce for Twenty Years, with renouncing the Sovereignty over some Provinces for a time. The State of publick affairs at that juncture made it necessary to submit to them, being then intent upon a War with the *Turks*, as also did the care of Defending the Christian Faith and Our Country, nor was a prosperous Success of Affairs wanting, and the grateful and firm hope of doing greater things, and of procuring Ease and Security to Your Majesty and to the Kingdom of *Poland* was Vigorous, till slighting the Established Articles of the Peace of *Westphalia* and *Nimeghen*, and the Twenty Years Truce; the *French* King envying the Victories of the Christians, and (as is plainly apparent) favouring the Interests of the *Turks* and *Tartars*, and endeavouring to repair their losses without declaring War, or any previous Commemoration of Grievances or Complaints, basely and Treacherously in a Hostile manner falls upon the back of the *Emperour* and the *Roman* Empire, when they were engaged in a War with the *Turks*, and little dreamt of it, the frontier Garrisons on the *Rhine*, being in Confidence of Peace, naked of sufficient Provisions, he either takes by immane fury and violence, or by direful threats and menaces, or by collogting, fawning; when he had no hopes to gain *Coblentz*, by reason of the Fidelity shewn to the *Emperour* and Empire by his Eminence the Elector of *Treves*, out of stark madness to do mischief, he burns it with Bombs and such like inventions; He depopulates Provinces, he oppresses the unwary and innocent Subjects of the Empire far and near, and spoils them of all their Fortunes: First, after a barbarous manner, he drags them that are set apart for the Divine Ministry, into captivity, and by stealing from the rest their food, necessary to sustain Life; some he starves, others he murders. Every mans heart akes to think how wickedly the profligious Nation did at the Kings Command, utterly destroy with Fire *Heidelberg*, founded by Emperors, an Electoral, and among Mountainous Fortifications, the Chief Seat of all *Europe*, when it was spontaneously surrendered upon Terms of Immunity, Confirmed and Subscribed by



by the *Dauphin*; *Manheim*, the finest Mart of that district, after a few days Siege, when it was surrendred upon good Terms, having foully violated his promise, he not only le-  
 well'd it with the ground, but with Gun-powder blew up from the very Foundation both private Houses and Churches, even such as served for the Exercise of the *Catholick* Religion; he took away the *Palatine* Archive, by taking away the Acts and Evidences of the Supream Judicature of the Imperial Chamber, which in all by-past Wars whatever were taken care of by the Enemy, to the irreparable damage of many Thousands that were at Law; he hath extirpated the administration of Sacred Justice, and whatever wickedness or villany the cruellest of Enemies could invent in ages long time past, to destroy Countries to that very death; that all this has been exercised by a wicked and villainous Nation in the most fruitful and beautiful Region of all *Germany*, the Province that is defaced with its own Ruines may testify: So that indeed the most Sacred Emperour, and the Electors, Princes and States of the *Roman* Empire being provoked with so perfidious devastations and robberies, (for indeed it deserves not the name of a War) and being tired out with so often repeated cruelties, as also being mindeful of the safeguard of the Empire, and its Subjects committed to them by God, and of their own duty, have declared War against the *French*, and having partly drawn (to the great damage of the Christians) Soldiers from the *Turkish* expedition, and having partly drawn and raised them in other places, relying on the High Justice of our Cause, and upon the Divine Assistance, have decreed to give check to this first most unjust effort, and with Councels and Force linck'd by an indissoluble tie to advance our Arms against the Enemy, for the reparation of such heinous injuries and damages sustained, and to procure perpetual security and tranquility to the Empire as from the unanimous decree of the States, most graciously approved by His Imperial Majesty (a Copy whereof We together with the translation, add to these) more  
 B fully

falsly will appear: besides, not being ignorant by what  
 shameful shifts and tricks, unbecoming any thing call'd a  
 King; so the *French* King uses to involve those that are pro-  
 voked by him, and are upon their guard against him, in  
 mutual picques and grudges, as under the false pretext of  
 difference in Religion, the same has unsuccessfully been  
 practis'd, and is at present pleaded: First of all, they have  
 thought it material, yea absolutely necessary, setting aside  
 all Neutrality, as they call it; whatever Power the Divine  
 Providence has bestowed on the Emperor & Empire, to ga-  
 ther it unanimously together, to turn our Arms with a cou-  
 rageous and resolved mind on the Enemy, and not to de-  
 sist from the prosecution of the War, till a sufficient re-  
 dress of so many bitter evils (which we hope from God) shall  
 be had, and further caution for the future, and also to de-  
 clare him or them to be Enemies of the Empire, who shall  
 by invasion or depredation infest any of their Territories;  
 even without the Empire, or that shall endeavour to turn  
 the Arms of the Empire or of its Allies, to the side of  
*France*, and also to invite all Crowns and Republicks, who  
 have regard to their Faith or Promise, into Our Assistance  
 and Alliance against the Enemy of all Faith, that being  
 banished from him. And most serene King: since an an-  
 cient and firm friendship hath been between the Emperors  
 and Empire, and the Kingdom of *Poland*, which not long  
 since in Friendly raising the Siege of *Kienna*, when Besieged  
 by the *Infidels* (which benefit We at present gratefully ac-  
 knowledge, and shall ever be acknowledged by all Posterity)  
 Your Majesty and the Common wealth of *Poland*, have a-  
 bundantly made good; and also since, by this nefarious  
 robbing by the *French*, which has recalled the greatest part  
 of our Victorious Forces out of *Servia* and *Bosnia*, the  
 side of our Ally, the Kingdom of *Poland*, is not slightly  
 wounded, and its security rendred hazardous; and especia-  
 lly, because it is not to be doubted, but Your Majesty  
 does abominate this villainous irruption: All these things  
 put us in hopes, that your Majesty, to repress a power so  
 immense

innocent and hurtful to the World, and insulking upon every one at its pleasure (which boasts that it wages War with all Europe, and also hath late declared War upon frivolous pretences, by a publick Edict, against the *Catholic* King, contrary to the instrument of Truce made with him, reckoned only for fashions-sake to have been inserted in the Truce between the *Imperialists* & the *French*) will joyn your Counsels and Arms, and those of the Commonwealth, with those of the Emperor's and Empire: We therefore having instructions by the especial command of Our Masters, do with all submission due, beseech your Majesty, that you would extend the League entered into, with the most August Emperor against this new Enemy, therefore the more dangerous, because destitute of all Faith; or otherwise, that you would please to enter into a separate treaty, and what, to this purpose, we know has been signified by the most invincible Emperor to your Majesty, repeating it here, We invite You into a more close confederacy.

But however, since the War with the *Turks* is still on foot, if We should fall short of Our hopes of obtaining a helping Hand from Your Majesty and the Common-wealth of *Poland*; we are certainly assured, that you will carefully and solicitously look to it, that by no *French* instigations or other evil arts, they and the *Turks* joyn Forces, and make depredations upon the Emperor and States, or upon any of the Confederates in your Confines without the Empire, nor that any of their Subjects be vext in any place with Invasions and Robberies, and if (which God forbid) things should happen otherwise than well, that You would with a willing mind joyn your Arms with Ours to pursue and extirpate these Invaders. We beseech Almighty God to inspire Your Majesty with Counsels worthy a Christian Prince, by which the pride of our Enemies being repress'd, perpetual Peace and Tranquility may be procured to Europe: And nothing remains, but that We heartily Pray for

for a happy Success of Affairs, and prosperous Events in  
Your Government, and to all undertakings beneficial to  
the Christian World. *Ratisbona*, from the Day May 4th.  
1689.

*Your Majesties*

*Most humble Servants,*

*The Councillors and Ambassadors  
of the Electors, Princes and  
States of the Sacred Roman Em-  
pire, there Assembled.*

To the Most Serene and  
Potent Prince, and Lord,

*John the Third, KING*

*of Poland, Great Duke of*

*Lithuania, and of Russia;*

*Brussa, Massovia, Samo-*

*gitea, &c. Our Most*

*Gracious Lord.*

**LONDON, Printed for R. Clavel in St. Pauls-  
Church-Yard, 1689.**

